



7th Life Science Syllabus

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Goals and Objectives:

- To use Ohio's *Model Competency –Based Science Program* as a basic curriculum guide. For the model, please visit the Ohio Department of Education website at <http://www.ode.state.oh.us>.
- To foster and continually develop an appreciation within the student for the scientific method and its applicability in everyday life.
- To build confidence in students' independent thinking abilities and bridge the connection between knowledge acquisition and application of this knowledge to useful, everyday situations.
- To broaden the perspectives of students to realize the presence of science in other classes, at home, at work, and virtually in every aspect of their lives.
- To assist students in understanding that science is, in essence, a way of observing, thinking, processing, and experimenting with the universe that encapsulates them.
- To establish a safe, disciplined learning environment that promotes the success of all students who strive to succeed.

Material Resources Provided:

- Textbook – Life Science: Prentice Hall Science Explorer. (ISBN: 0-13-062643-0)
- Current Events from various newspapers and magazines – Students are also encouraged to bring in relevant, science materials that they find in newspapers, magazines, or notes from a news story for discussion and/or exploration in class.
- Educational posters, graphs, illustrations, pictures, etc.
- Computers, internet, and other acquired technology tools that may be utilized as a resource.
- Lab supplies as required.

Required Course Materials:

- Science notebook to consist of:
 - One, three ring binder with pencil pouch
 - 5 Dividers with tabs - labeled and in this order: Daily Question (D.Q.); Notes; Reference Materials; Grade Sheet; Returned Assignments.
 - Loose-leaf notebook paper (NO SPIRAL BOUND PAPER ACCEPTED)
- Mechanical Pencils and erasers, red pen, highlighter for notes (optional)
- Provided by the school: A labeled folder for homework that needs to be completed.

Curriculum:

- The middle school science curriculum is structured to assist students with transitioning to high school level science and to assure high achievement. The curriculum will constantly be evolving; yet the curriculum will be built upon the Ohio Department of Education's Standards for Science.
- The curriculum will be supplemented throughout the year with various fieldtrips.
- Major Units within the 7th Grade year include, but not limited to:
 - Cytology – Study of cells, cell parts, and cellular function
 - Ecology – Study of organisms, and their interaction with the environment
 - Anatomy/Dissections – small mammals and aquatic life
 - The Classification System of Living things
 - Use of the metric system

C.A.'s Life Principles:

- Do no harm
- Make things better
- Respect others
- Be fair
- Be loving

Classroom Expectations:

- KINDNESS, DIGNITY, RESPECT
- Be prepared for class – be in your seat, have required materials (see supply board above drinking fountain for special items to bring – do not ask teacher), and be attentive. Not being prepared may result in a Yellow Board. You may not return to your locker to retrieve forgotten materials.
- The daily required materials are: textbook, notebook, mechanical pencils, and any special items on the supply board
- Practice active listening and follow directions.
- Remain seated throughout class unless instructed otherwise.
- During class: Raise hand and wait to be called upon before speaking.
- For computer use rules, please refer to the "Acceptable Use Policy."
- During test/quizzes, you are expected to not communicate with other students until the test is over and the teacher has collected all tests/quizzes. If the teacher suspects that you are communicating, it will be interpreted as an attempt to cheat. You will lose credit for that test/quiz and will be handled under the "Academic Integrity Policy." The decision is not open for discussion or debate.
- At the end of class, the teacher dismisses the students...not the bell.

Consequences to Offenses:

- REFOCUS Form
- Yellow Board
- For severe behavior the previous steps will be skipped and will result in a Yellow Slip. For details concerning Yellow Slips, please see the *Student Handbook and Discipline Policy*.

Laboratory Safety Rules:

1. Locate and learn to use the laboratory safety equipment
2. Always follow safety PRECAUTIONS/CAUTIONS!
3. Always tie back long hair, do not wear extremely baggy or loose clothing, and remove any dangling jewelry such as necklaces or ear rings.
4. Safety equipment indicated in the lab or by your teacher must be worn until given directions to remove the safety equipment. Safety goggles will be required for most labs. You may provide your own if you would like, however, a class set is provided.
5. Always carefully handle laboratory supplies and equipment. Careless use will be considered destruction of school property and will result in a Yellow Slip and you can be held liable for replacement of the equipment.
6. Never eat, drink, chew gum, or apply cosmetics in the lab area.
7. Never gather supplies or start a lab without the teacher's permission.
8. Read all parts of the lab before starting on the lab.
9. Never run, push, play, or fool around in the lab.
10. Keep your work area clean. Store unnecessary items either in your desk or in a designated area.
11. Turn off and unplug any equipment when not in use.
12. Always use hot pads or tongs when handling hot materials. Never touch with your hand to see if it is hot. ASSUME it is still hot.
13. Use care when handling electrical equipment. Never touch electrical equipment with wet hands or use it near water. Remove from outlets by pulling the plug and not the cord.
14. Use care when working with chemicals. Keep all chemicals away from your face, skin, and clothing.
15. Always clean your equipment, your work area, and the area around your work area after an activity. You are also expected to clean the common areas around the room if they were used as part of the lab.

Failure to Follow Laboratory Rules:

Depending upon the severity of the rule broken the following may result:

- Warning to individual or entire class
- REFOCUS, Yellow board, or Yellow Slip
- Loss of laboratory privileges – an alternative research project will be assigned in place of each lab.

Course Components:

- **Homework** – Homework will be given several times weekly. See homework policy.
- **Current Science Summary (C.S.S.):** This will be a monthly assignment throughout the school year. Each month, students are to find a current science article, news story, press release, etc., no more than 6 months old, and write a one-paragraph, well-developed summary of the article. The student must document the source using the MLA format, available in class or online. A form will be provided on the class website. The summary will be due the last school day of each month from September through May.
- **Quizzes and Tests** – These assessments will be announced in advance. See homework policy.
- **Special Projects** – Periodically, students will be given opportunities to work on projects.
- **Current Science Investigations (C.S.I.)** – Labs will supplement our learning in class.
- **Science Inquiry Project** – More information will be sent home later.
- **Science Notebook** – Contains 5 sections labeled: Daily Question (D.Q.); Notes; Reference Materials; Grade Sheet; Returned Assignments.
- **Field Trips** – Throughout the year, fieldtrips will be scheduled to reinforce and expand upon the obtained knowledge in a direct, hands-on experience.

Restroom/Drinking Fountain Policy:

- In order to use the restroom during class or to get a drink, you must provide the teacher with a restroom pass. Passes will only be accepted during the first five (5) minutes of class, during homework time, or during the last five (5) minutes of class, providing that the class is not involved in a lecture, discussion, lab, etc. You are responsible for obtaining any missed material (homework, notes, etc.) from a lab partner.

Homework/Grading Policy:

- Homework should be completed in **pencil** on loose-leaf notebook paper. Homework completed in pen or on spiral bound paper will not be accepted.
- All assignments completed on notebook paper or typed must include the following heading. Assignments that do not have the proper heading will not be accepted. See example below.

	Assignment, page(s) #, problem #'s	First Last Name Subject/Grade Date
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- Homework and projects should be turned in when it is collected/due.
- Any work turned in after it is collected/due (except for absences) will be considered late and will receive up to half credit. The assignment will be graded and then half of the earned points will be credited to their score.
- You will have up to 24 hours after an assignment is collected to turn in an assignment. After 24 hours, you will receive a zero (0) and it will be considered "missing".

- Illegible assignments and/or assignments containing numerous grammatical errors that affects the flow of communication will be returned ungraded and must be redone. The paper then will be considered late.
- Accumulation of three (3) missing assignments in one (1) quarter will result in a Yellow Board.

Absent Work:

- If a student is present when an assignment is given, but absent when the assignment is due, he/she will be expected to submit it when he/she returns. This does not apply to projects.
- Projects that have been assigned for more than 5 days are expected to be turned in on the original due date. That is your responsibility to make sure that it is turned in.
- If a student is absent when an assignment is given, he/she will be given the same number of days absent to make up the assignment, up to a maximum of five (5) school days.
- If a student is absent on the day of a test or quiz, it is his or her responsibility take the exam at 7:15 a.m on the day agreed upon by the student and teacher. If the student had a planned absence prior to the test date, he or she is still responsible to take the test on the test day. If a planned absence is scheduled on the test date, they will be responsible to take make arrangements with the teacher to make up the test.
- All make-up tests will be given at 7:15 a.m.
- The teacher reserves the right to provide a make-up test in place of the original test.

School-Wide Policies – Please refer to these policies for they also apply in class.

- Academic Integrity
- Acceptable Use Policy
- Cell Phone Policy

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Grading Scale: Based upon percent.

Letter Grade	Minimum	Maximum
A+	99	100
A	95	98
A-	93	94
B+	91	92
B	87	90
B-	85	86
C+	83	84
C	77	82
C-	75	76
D+	73	74
D	67	72
D-	65	66
F	0	64

Point System

- I will use a point system for grading. All home works, quizzes, tests, labs, and projects will be assigned a point value based upon the difficulty and intensity of the assignment.
- Students will accumulate points throughout the quarter which will be converted to a percent to determine their grade.
- Final grades will be rounded to the nearest whole number.
- Students will be keeping track of their grade on their own grade sheet that will be kept in their Science Notebook.

